Serial No.: 10/767,694 -2-

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A medical instrument comprising:

a first part and a second part which are connected together by a connecting device;

wherein the first part comprises comprising a retaining chamber for the second part and the second part [[is]] being seated on the first part by means of at least one shaft end [[spigot]] and at least one corresponding shaft end [[spigot]]-seating, each of said at least one shaft end and said corresponding shaft end-seating forming a connecting arrangement of the connecting device in the retaining chamber; wherein:

the at least one shaft end-seating has an associated insertion recess; and the shaft end is arranged on one of the first part or the second part;

the corresponding shaft end-seating is arranged on the other one of the first part or the second part; and

the shaft end is adapted to be pushed into the shaft end-seating via said insertion recess.

2. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein:

the second part is connected to the first part by means of spigot and spigot-seating the at least one shaft comprise two shaft ends;

said at least one corresponding shaft end seating comprises two corresponding shaft endseatings; and

said two shaft ends and two corresponding shaft end seatings forming two connecting arrangements on opposite sides of the retaining chamber.

3. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the spigot and spigot-seating connecting arrangements on opposite sides of the retaining chamber are in

Serial No.: 10/767,694

alignment.

4. (Original) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the second part is connected to the first part via the connecting device in rotatable manner.

-3-

- 5. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a spigot and spigot-seating the connecting arrangement device is in the form of a swivel joint.
- 6. (Original) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the second part is adapted to the height of the retaining chamber.
- 7. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein [[a]] the shaft end- [[spigot]] seating is arranged on the first part and [[a]] the corresponding shaft end [[spigot]] is arranged on the second part.
- 8. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein [[a]] the shaft end- [[spigot]] seating is arranged on the second part and [[a]] the corresponding shaft end [[spigot]] is arranged on the first part.
- 9. (Cancelled).
- 10. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein an the insertion recess is tapered with a decreasing aperture in the direction of the shaft end- [[spigot]] seating.
- 11. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein [[a]] the shaft end [[spigot]] is tapered in a direction of insertion into [[a]] the shaft end- [[spigot]] seating.

12. (Original) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first part is manufactured from a synthetic material

- 13. (Original) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the second part is manufactured from a synthetic material.
- 14. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein [[a]] the shaft end- [[spigot]] seating is closed with respect to the exterior.
- 15. (Currently amended) A medical instrument in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a <u>shaft end-</u> [[spigot]] seating is open with respect to the exterior.